

BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – July 20, 2010

- **John Carman called the BRAC Implementation Committee to order at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was conducted informally at BCC High School, concurrent with the MCDOT public meeting on the MD 355 / Rockville Pike Crossing Project**
- **Phil Alperson, the County's BRAC Coordinator, provided the following updates:**
 - **The BRAC MOBILITY PROJECTS MATRIX is posted on the BRAC web site.** It has been updated through July 19 and reflects the multi-modal approach the County, State and other stakeholders are taking to address the transportation impacts of BRAC in Bethesda – transit improvements, pedestrian and bicycle enhancements, intersection upgrades, transportation demand management, etc. http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo_project_matrix-071910.pdf
 - **MD 355 / ROCKVILLE PIKE CROSSING PROJECT:** MC-DOT hosted a public meeting to review the seven options that have been under consideration, and the three options (plus a fourth “no build” option) that are recommended for further review. The three options recommended for further consideration include a “shallow pedestrian tunnel” combined with TSM/TDM upgrades; the same option plus deep high-speed east-side elevators; and a grade separation with a T-intersection and jug handle into NIH and a multi-modal pedestrian overpass at South Wood. Comments must be submitted by August 3, 2010. MC-DOT has also published a Final Purpose & Need Summary and a Draft Purpose & Need Statement. The detailed public presentation and updated P&N documents are on the Crossing Project Page: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brcmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/epa-pedaccess.asp>
 - **FEDERAL FUNDING:** Last December Congress appropriated \$300 million from the Defense Health Care budget towards transportation improvements in communities around NNMCM Bethesda and the Fort Belvoir Military Hospital. However, DOD responded that these funds cannot be transferred from military health care accounts to state and local transportation agencies without specific instruction from Congress. To clear this administrative hurdle, Congressman Chris Van Hollen succeeded in inserting language in the House version of the FY2010 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill to direct the disbursement of the \$300 million from OEA. The current Senate version of the bill doesn't include this language, and the many discrepancies between the House and Senate bills remain to be resolved. Also, because Congress is now operating under a new “no earmark” rule, the language makes any community that is home to a BRAC-impacted military hospital eligible to apply for funds, rather than limiting the funds to projects around NNMCM Bethesda and Fort Belvoir. Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas is at least one other

BRAC-growth military hospital. Details on Congressional actions are on the Community Involvement Page immediately following this Meeting Summary.

- **DAR (DEFENSE ACCESS ROAD) FUNDING:** Senator Mikulski reported that the Senate Appropriations Committee has approved the Administration's request for \$20 million for DAR funding for the Rockville Pike Crossing Project.
- **PARK & PLANNING COMMISSION MANDATORY REFERRAL AND OTHER BRAC-RELATED MEETINGS:** Details on the following meetings can be found on the Montgomery County Planning Department's new BRAC web site: <http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/transportation/brac/index.shtm>
 - JULY 15: Mandatory Referral hearings were held on the Jones Bridge Road shared-use path between Rockville Pike and Connecticut Avenue, part of the County's Pedestrian/Bike paths project relating to BRAC in Bethesda: More information <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brcmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/BRAC/transportation.asp> (scroll down to "5. PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE PATHS AROUND NNMC")
 - JULY 22 -- Mandatory Referral public hearings on the SHA BRAC Intersections Improvement project. More information: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brcmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/BRAC/transportation.asp> (scroll down to "4. MAJOR INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS")
 - JULY 29 -- "Roundtable" to discuss the MD 355 Crossing Project. A "roundtable" is not a public hearing but gives the Commission an opportunity to discuss the project with relevant County officials. John Carman, Chairman of the BRAC implementation Committee, plans to participate in the July 29th roundtable. More information: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brcmpl.asp?url=/Content/EXEC/BRAC/nepa-pedaccess.asp>
- **RECENT CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BIC:**
 - 7-16-10 Letter from the Coalition of Military Medical Center Neighbors on "next steps" for the BIC: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/cmmcn-funding-071610.pdf>
 - 7-12-10 Letter from NIH regarding its Transportation Management Plan: http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/nih-tmp_wheeland-071210.pdf

- **DISCUSSION:**

- John Carman discussed “next steps” for the BIC in the event federal funding becomes available for the various BRAC transportation projects. He said he would work with Phil to draft a letter to the County Executive, with BIC approval.
 - Greg Humes, standing in for Ken Strickland, requested that the August BIC meeting include a presentation and discussion by MC-DOT of the recently-completed traffic mitigation study for Chevy Chase Valley, at the northwest corner of the MD 185 / Jones Bridge Road intersection.
- **The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, 2010, 7:30 p.m., at the BCC Regional Services Center.**

Committee members in attendance, July 20, 2010:

(partial list)

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator
John Carman, BRAC Implementation Committee Chairman
Larry Cole, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission
Gary Erenrich for Edgar Gonzalez, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Leslie Weber for Brian Gagnolati, Suburban Hospital
Ilaya Hopkins, East Bethesda Citizens Association
Ginanne Italiano, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce
Ed Krauze, Bethesda-Parkview Citizens Association
Seth Maiman, Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board
Debbie Michaels Glenbrook Village Home Owners Association
Andy Scott, MDOT
Sara Morningstar for Melanie Wenger, Montgomery County Office of Intergovt. Relations
Susan Hinton for Dan Wheeland, NIH

Ex-officio:

Jahantab “J-Tab” Siddiqui, Sen. Barbara Mikulski
Ken Reichard (Sen. Ben Cardin)
Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)
Susan Buffone (Council Member Roger Berliner)
Captain Mike Malanoski, Naval Support Activity Bethesda
Commander John Lamberton, NSA Bethesda

Other Attendees

(partial list)

Nancy Abeles, Bethesda Crest Home Owners Association
Greg Humes, Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association
Marilyn Mazuzan, Town of Oakmont
Paul McComb, NNMC
Debbie Spielberg, Councilmember Marc Elrich
Andrew Ujifusa, Gazette Newspapers